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General Assembly
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Agenda item 42
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 17 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I transmit herewith, in two separate annexes, both the recorded infringements of international air traffic regulations and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey (see annex I) and the illegal use of closed ports by Turkish warships during the month of September 2013 (see annex II). It should also be noted that Turkish commercial aircraft systematically use the illegal airport of Tympou. I have the honour to draw your attention to the systematic abuses by Turkey of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus by its blatantly violating international law in a way that seriously jeopardizes safety and security in the greater region.

In addition, Turkey continues to systematically harass and at instances threaten civilian and military aircraft within the Nicosia flight information region by means of radio calls. Turkey's policy of persistently breaching international law and defying international rules and regulations gravely jeopardizes the safety of international civil aviation and the stability of the region, while it also causes difficulties for air traffic in Cyprus and endangers the safety and security of airline passengers.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the letter dated 17 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Airborne violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
2 September 2013	1621-1647	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia flight information region (FIR) and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia area control centre (ACC).
4 September 2013	1110-1130	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal airport of Tympou.
	1703-1721	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal airport of Tympou.
5 September 2013	1850-1945	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
9 September 2013	1910-2140	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
9-10 September 2013	2228-0058	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
12 September 2013	1328-1458	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1513-1617	Two Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	2015-2110	Two Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
16 September 2013	1439-1505	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal airport of Tympou.
17 September 2013	0925-1015	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
17 September 2013	1302-1455	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1645-1900	Two S-70 Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1721-1747	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal airport of Tympou.
18 September 2013	1005-1039	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1245-1355	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter and one Bell Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1449-1600	One DA-20 Turkish aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1510-1529	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
19 September 2013	1136-1156	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal airport of Tympou.
	1642-1718	Four F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1657-1711	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal airport of Tympou.
20 September 2013	0925-1010	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	0943-0954	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter and one Bell Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
20 September 2013	1124-1134	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1332-1410	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter and one Bell Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
23 September 2013	1220-1248	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal airport of Tympou.
	1542-1609	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal airport of Tympou.
24 September 2013	1141-1432	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1337-1456	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1609-1634	Four F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1629-1646	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	2010-2131	One S-70 Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	2018-2130	One S-70 Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
26 September 2013	0917-0957	One Turkish helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1202-1226	Four F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
27 September 2013	0904-0920	One C-650 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal airport of Tympou.
	1406-1431	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal airport of Tympou.
	1830-1839	One C-650 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal airport of Tympou.

Annex II to the letter dated 17 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Naval violations

Dates	*Nature of violation*
26 August-19 September 2013	One A-573 Turkish tanker violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos.
30 August-1 September 2013	One P-331 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
30 August-1 September 2013	One P-337 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
31 August-1 September 2013	One F-504 Turkish corvette violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
2-9 September 2013	One P-337 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
2-9 September 2013	One F-504 Turkish corvette violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
3-9 September 2013	One P-331 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
4-9 September 2013	One F-490 Turkish frigate violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
10 September 2013	One A-1600 Turkish military transport ferry violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos.
10-11 September 2013	One P-331 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
10-11 September 2013	One F-495 Turkish frigate violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
10-12 September 2013	One P-337 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.

Dates	*Nature of violation*
10-18 September 2013	One P-338 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
12-13 September 2013	One A-1600 Turkish military transport ferry violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos.
12-14 September 2013	One P-331 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
12-23 September 2013	One F-495 Turkish frigate violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
13-15 September 2013	One P-337 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
14-30 September 2013	One P-333 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
15-26 September 2013	One P-332 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
18 September 2013	One P-337 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
19 September-October 2013	One A-572 Turkish tanker violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos.
22 September-October 2013	One F-504 Turkish corvette violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
26 September 2013	One A-1600 Turkish military transport ferry violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos.
26 September-October 2013	One F-495 Turkish frigate violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
27 September-October 2013	One P-332 Turkish missile boat violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.

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Letter dated 17 October 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from the representative of the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces dated 17 October 2013 in advance of the Security Council's debate on "Women and peace and security" to be held on 18 October 2013 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Peter **Wilson**

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Annex to the letter dated 17 October 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, I have the honour to refer to the Security Council's open debate on "Women and peace and security" to be held on 18 October 2013.

As confirmed in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), all United Nations Member States have a duty to "implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of women and girls during and after conflict". This builds on the essential rights enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as the view expressed by the 2005 World Summit that all States "have the duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms" (see General Assembly resolution 60/1).

For the past two and a half years, the Syrian regime has failed to meet these international obligations, in particular the protection of the rights of women and girls. Instead, it has engaged in a widespread and systematic campaign of sexual violence against Syria's civilian population, while denying United Nations investigators access to the Syrian Arab Republic in an attempt to conceal the full extent of its human rights abuses.

Despite the regime's lack of cooperation, monitors have been able to collect and present credible evidence to document the scale of abuses carried out by regime-sponsored forces in Syria. The United Nations has provided proof of extensive acts of sexual violence committed by regime forces and its affiliated militias. These include rape, abuse, torture and sexual humiliation against innocent civilians.

In its latest report, issued in August 2013, the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic found that "The threat of rape is used as a tool to terrorize and punish women, men and children perceived as being associated with the opposition" (see A/HRC/24/46). In addition to coercing confessions through the threat of gang rape, pro-government elements were found to have committed sexual violence, including rape, during raids in Dara'a, Hamah and Tartus.

In April 2013, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, requested that the Security Council take action to stop the violence in Syria. After testifying to the widespread existence of rape and torture across Syria, Special Representative Bangura urged "President Assad in the strongest terms to ensure that all persons in government custody are treated humanely in accordance with international human rights and humanitarian law".

In February 2013, the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, in its interim report to the Human Rights Council in Geneva, confirmed numerous cases of sexual violence committed by government forces and affiliated militia. This included the use of sexual violence in the targeting of family members of opposition fighters, and the rape of women and girls during house

searches and at checkpoints as well as in detention centres (see A/HRC/22/59 and Corr.1).

The actions of the Syrian regime are prosecutable as war crimes, and they violate international law as articulated in Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1960 (2010). In all cases, the Security Council has condemned the use of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, and called upon parties to make and implement specific commitments on timely investigations of alleged abuses in order to hold perpetrators accountable.

The membership of the United Nations has also expressed repeatedly its concern at the Syrian regime's abuses. In February 2012, the General Assembly condemned "the continued widespread and systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Syrian authorities, such as the use of force against civilians ... torture, sexual violence, and ill-treatment, including against children" (see General Assembly resolution 66/253 A).

In May 2013, the General Assembly condemned "all violations of international humanitarian law and the continued widespread and systematic gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Syrian authorities and the Government-affiliated *shabbiha* militia", including the use of "systematic sexual violence, including rape in detention, and ill-treatment, including against children" (see General Assembly resolution 67/262).

The Syrian regime has repeatedly ignored all efforts by the international community calling for it to end its grave violations of the Syrian people's human rights. Its use of sexual violence is in clear contravention of international law, and contributes to the growing body of evidence that the Syrian regime has forfeited its right to represent the Syrian people.

The Syrian Coalition respectfully requests that the Security Council use its forthcoming debate to denounce the Syrian regime's systematic and widespread use of sexual violence as an instrument of war. We further ask that the Security Council call upon the Syrian regime to allow independent investigators immediate and unfettered access throughout the Syrian Arab Republic so that evidence can be gathered to ensure that all perpetrators of these crimes are held accountable.

Ultimately, the only way to end the violence and stop the suffering of the Syrian people is to establish a transitional Government that can administer Syria's path to democracy. The Syrian Coalition therefore urges the Security Council to use all means at its disposal as provided for in the United Nations Charter, to bring pressure to bear on the Assad regime to start our country's transition to democracy.

The Syrian Coalition reaffirms its own commitment to protecting the rights of women and its support for all measures that can prohibit sexual violence in conflict and ensure accountability for individuals that violate international law in this regard.

(*Signed*) Najib **Ghadbian**
United Nations Representative of the Syrian Coalition

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 17 October 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

We write to express our alarm about ongoing illegal Israeli activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the territory constituting the State of Palestine. The persistence of the illegal and provocative actions of the occupying Power in this regard continues to raise tensions and further destabilize the situation on the ground. While the State of Palestine remains committed to and continues to engage in the negotiations in good faith, Israel's ongoing aggression against the sovereignty, viability, territorial integrity and contiguity of the State of Palestine and the viability of the two-State solution are both cause for alarm and cause for deep doubts regarding the potential for success of the negotiations.

Most dangerously, extremist Israeli settlers, with the full protection and acquiescence of the Israeli occupying forces, continue to provoke and escalate tensions, particularly in Occupied East Jerusalem and specifically at Al-Haram Al-Sharif. The constant provocations and aggression against the sanctity of Palestinian cemeteries, churches and mosques, in particular Al-Aqsa Mosque, have the potential to bring about grave consequences for the entire region and the wider international community. We call on the international community, including the Security Council, to give due and immediate attention to this threat to international peace and security.

We regret to inform you that since the announcement by the parties of the resumption of negotiations, on 29 July, Israel, the occupying Power, has advanced approval of over 3,000 settlement units, and the confiscation of hundreds more dunums of Palestinian land. The latest announcement by Israel was made on 9 October, announcing the construction of 58 additional units in the settlement of "Pisgat Ze'ev" north of Jerusalem. In this regard, it is imperative to highlight a report issued by the Israeli non-governmental organization Peace Now, "Drastic Rise in Construction in the Settlements", which noted, among other things, a

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70 per cent rise in construction in the settlements from January to June 2013 compared with the same period in 2012, and that 86 per cent of construction had begun without any tenders. Additional reports indicate that Israel plans to exempt settlements from being obliged to publicize tenders, in an effort to reduce diplomatic pressures from such publication. These tactics only indicate further the true intention of Israel to build more settlements, rather than to act in accordance with international law in order to build confidence between the parties to achieve peace.

Clearly, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to perceive itself to be above the law, as indicated by its reckless, illegal behaviour. It is the responsibility of the international community, in particular the Security Council, to remind Israel of its obligations under the law, including humanitarian law, in accordance with article 49 (6) of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which states that "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies". This grave breach is defined in Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as a war crime.

At the same time, extremist Israeli settlers continue to wreak havoc and terror on the Palestinian people and their lands. As the olive harvest is under way, which is an important source of sustenance and a central component of our agricultural sector, settlers have destroyed hundreds of olive groves, including setting thousands of olive trees ablaze, leaving many Palestinian families without any crops to harvest, destroying livelihoods and further damaging the Palestinian economy. It is no surprise that settlers, a by-product of the Israeli occupation and settlements, would destroy a symbol of peace, the olive tree, as every settlement unit constructed erodes the prospects and the viability of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

It is against this backdrop that peace talks continue — an environment that is hardly conducive to the pursuit of peace, and reinforces the notion that Israel is using this period only to further entrench its settlement enterprise and its de facto annexation of Palestinian land. Yet, the State of Palestine remains committed to the peace process and the objective of peace and coexistence. We renew our call to the international community, in particular the Security Council, not to stand idly by as the two-State solution is destroyed by Israel's illegal colonization schemes. Serious efforts are needed to uphold international law, foremost respect of it by the occupying Power, to support and advance the peace process for the attainment by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination, and independent in their State of Palestine on the basis of the pre-1967 border, in accordance with international law, including relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 473 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 September 2013 (A/ES-10/603-S/2013/567), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations

being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Security Council

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Letter dated 18 October 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 11 October 2013 from Her Excellency Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, forwarding a communiqué adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 399th meeting, held on 10 October 2013 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN Ki-moon**

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Annex

Letter dated 11 October 2013 from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to the Secretary-General

I am forwarding, herewith, the communiqué adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 399th meeting, held on 10 October 2013 to consider my report on the recommendations of the joint AU-United Nations benchmarking exercise and review of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

As you are aware, the review and the benchmarking exercise, which took place from 26 August to 6 September 2013, were undertaken in pursuance of Security Council resolution 2093 (2013) and relevant African Union Peace and Security Council communiqués. I would like to seize this opportunity to convey my appreciation to you, in particular, and to the United Nations Secretariat, in general, for the spirit of cooperation and collaboration which characterized the review process throughout its conduct. This spirit is yet another illustration of the close partnership that binds the African Union and the United Nations.

Overall, the review came to the conclusion that conditions are not yet conducive for the re-hatting of AMISOM into a United Nations operation and that further efforts need to be made to degrade the capacity of the terrorist group Al Shabaab and improve significantly the security situation, in order to facilitate the successful completion of the political process. Against this background, the Peace and Security Council endorsed the recommendations of the review regarding the need to increase AMISOM strength and provide it with the required force multipliers and enablers, as well as the need to provide non-lethal support to the Somali National Security Forces, to enable them both to hold onto the areas currently cleared of Al Shabaab presence and to expand into and recover new areas.

The Peace and Security Council is looking forward to the United Nations Security Council's positive consideration of the report of the review and benchmarking exercise. In this respect, it is critical that the Security Council authorize the revision and expansion of the United Nations support package to AMISOM to ensure that the necessary support is extended to AMISOM and the Somali National Security Forces, through the assessed contributions.

I would be most grateful if you could circulate the present letter and the Peace and Security Council communiqué as a document of the Security Council.

Allow me to seize this opportunity to reiterate the African Union's deep appreciation to the United Nations Security Council and to you personally for your continued support to AMISOM efforts. The tremendous strides made over the past few years would not have been possible without the support of the United Nations and other partners and the innovative partnership our two institutions have built.

I have no doubt that, as we enter a new phase in our joint efforts in Somalia, we can count on United Nations support.

(*Signed*) Nkosazana **Dlamini-Zuma**

Communiqué adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 399th meeting, held on 10 October 2013

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 399th meeting, held on 10 October 2013, adopted the following decision on the Joint AU-United Nations Review of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the benchmarking exercise:

Council,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Joint AU-United Nations Review of AMISOM and the benchmarking exercise [PSC/PR/2(CCCXCIX)] and of the briefing by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Somalia and Head of AMISOM, as well as of the statements made by the representatives of the Government of Somalia, permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and AU Member States sitting in that organ (France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States and Rwanda), the United Nations Secretariat, the European Union and Italy, as co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Partners Forum;

2. *Welcomes, once again*, the significant progress made in Somalia, both on the political and security fronts. Council, at the same time, *expresses deep concern* at the serious threat that Al Shabaab continues to pose in Somalia and in the region. In this respect, Council *condemns in the strongest terms* the terrorist and cowardly attacks perpetrated by Al Shabaab, notably in Mogadishu against the United Nations common compound and a restaurant, and in Nairobi against a shopping mall. Council *expresses its solidarity* with the Governments and peoples of Somalia and Kenya, and *reiterates* AU's commitment to continue working with Member States and partners in the prevention and combating of terrorism;

3. *Recalls* resolution 2093 (2013) adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 6 March 2013, requesting, notably, the United Nations Secretary-General to keep the situation in Somalia under review, including through the setting of benchmarks for the establishment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation, as well as the Security Council's presidential statement of 6 June 2013 (S/PRST/2013/7), welcoming the intention of the United Nations Secretariat to conduct a joint review of AMISOM with AU, and emphasizing the importance of both organizations working closely together in this exercise;

4. *Further recalls* its communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(CCCLVI), adopted at its 356th meeting, held on 27 February 2013, endorsing the recommendation made to enhance AMISOM, revising the mandate of AMISOM to take into account the evolution of the situation on the ground and the need to consolidate the gains made, and calling upon the United Nations Security Council to authorize the enhancement of the support package to AMISOM. Council *further recalls* its communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(CCCLXXIX), adopted at its 379th meeting, held on 13 June 2013, in which it stated that it was looking forward to the outcome of the benchmarking exercise;

5. *Also recalls* the communiqué adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Troop Contributing Countries to AMISOM, Ethiopia and Somalia, held in Kampala, Uganda, on 4 August 2013, which notably requested the Commission, in consultation with the concerned stakeholders, to revise the Strategic

Concept for the future operations of AMISOM, as endorsed by its 306th meeting, held on 5 January 2012 [PSC/PR/COMM.(CCCVI)], in order to align it with the prevailing circumstances in the Mission area;

6. *Welcomes* the close collaboration between AU, the United Nations and the Troop Contributing Countries during the Joint AU-United Nations Review and benchmarking exercise. Council *notes* the findings of the Review, in particular with respect to the threat posed by Al Shabaab, the current AMISOM operations and the state of the Somali National Security Forces (SNSF). Council *further notes* the conclusion reached by the Joint Review that the conditions for re-hatting AMISOM into a United Nations peacekeeping operation do not exist at present and that the deployment of such an operation at this time would be a high-risk option;

7. *Stresses the need* for renewed efforts to degrade the capabilities of Al Shabaab, in view of the continued threat it poses both within Somalia and in the region, and the need to improve significantly the security situation to create conditions for the successful conclusion of the political process, notably with respect to the constitutional referendum and the elections planned for 2016;

8. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Troop and Police Contributing Countries for their commitment and sacrifices towards the promotion of peace, security and reconciliation in Somalia;

9. *Expresses its gratitude* to the United Nations, the European Union and the international community as a whole for their support to date to AMISOM. Council, while acknowledging the challenges encountered in mobilizing adequate support for AMISOM, *stresses once again* the importance of AMISOM continuing its vital work;

10. *Endorses* the recommendations made by the Joint Review in order to enable the resumption of the military campaign against Al Shabaab, through:

- an increase of AMISOM strength by 6,235 troops and police personnel, out of which 3 battalions will be deployed for a limited period of 18 to 24 months as a force asset under the control of the AMISOM Force Commander, bringing the AMISOM total strength to 23,966 uniformed personnel
- the provision of the required force multipliers and enablers to AMISOM, and
- the provision of non-lethal support to SNSF, to enable them both to hold the areas currently cleared of Al Shabaab presence, as well as to expand into and recover new areas;

11. *Stresses the need* for the Commission to adjust the concept of operations for AMISOM in order to take into account the recommendations of the Joint Review and determine its implementation modalities. In this respect, Council *looks forward* to the contribution that could be made by the Military Operations Coordination Committee, and *encourages* it to meet in due course;

12. *Looks forward* to the United Nations Security Council's positive consideration of the report of the Joint Review and the benchmarking exercise, including endorsement of the proposed force increase and the provision of logistical support to AMISOM and SNSF. Council *calls* on the Security Council to authorize the revision and adjustment of the United Nations logistical support package, as renewed under paragraph 4 of resolution 2093 (2013), to make it possible to extend

the support referred to in paragraph 10 above through United Nations assessed contributions;

13. *Further calls* on the European Union, through the Africa Peace Facility, to continue to provide the required support to facilitate the envisaged increase in AMISOM strength. Council *also calls* on other AU partners to provide the necessary financial support to assist in meeting the needs of the Mission, particularly in view of the projected increase in its strength and, in this regard, *welcomes* the sensitization visits that the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Somalia intends to undertake to some of Africa's partners to seek their support. Council, recalling the Declaration on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa, adopted by the 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 May 2013, which encouraged Member States to make exceptional voluntary contributions to the Peace Fund on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Organization of African Unity, *urges* all Member States to contribute financially to the sustenance of AMISOM. Council *also appeals* to the AU Member States to contribute troops and police personnel to enhance the operational capacity of AMISOM;

14. *Stresses the need* for continued efforts by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the other Somali stakeholders to further the reconciliation process, and *encourages* them to intensify these efforts, building on the inclusive Constitutional Review Process launched by FGS on 16 June 2013, the establishment on 3 July 2013 of the Constitutional Review Commission and the Agreement reached on 28 August 2013 by FGS and the Jubba Interim Administration under the mediation of the IGAD Chair, Ethiopia;

15. *Welcomes* the successful holding of the Brussels High-Level Conference, co-hosted by the European Union and the Federal Government of Somalia, on 16 September 2013, and the endorsement on that occasion of the New Deal Compact for Somalia;

16. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary steps to effectively follow up on the relevant provisions of this communiqué, including transmitting it to the United Nations Secretary-General and, through him, to the Security Council, as well as to the other AU partners;

17. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.